

Application No. 10/824,802
Art Unit 3644
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2006
Attorney Docket No. IPM1.PAU.06

Patent Application

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A rodent terminating device, comprising:

a base having a first end, a second end, a first side, a second side, a length and a top base surface;

a snap bar pivotably coupled to the base, the snap bar being configured to rotate between a first default position adjacent to the first end of the base and a second loaded position adjacent to the second end of the base, the snap bar being spring-biased by at least one spring toward the first position, the snap bar having at least one axial section and one transverse section, the at least one spring defining a longitudinal axis, the at least one spring being positioned adjacent to the first side or the second side of the base so as to leave a central gap~~the snap bar defining a pivot line;~~ and

a trigger configured to engage the snap bar in the second loaded position, the trigger including a substantially straight horizontal trigger portion and an integral vertical trigger portion extending upwardly from the horizontal trigger portion, the vertical trigger portion comprising a catch disposed adjacent to the second end of the base and adapted to directly and releasably engage the transverse section of the snap bar, the substantially straight horizontal trigger portion extending substantially along the length

Application No. 10/824,802
Art Unit 3644
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2006
Attorney Docket No. IPM1.PAU.06

Patent Application

of the base through the central gap and beneath the pivot line longitudinal axis of the
snap bar at least one spring,

wherein the trigger comprises a pivot point above the top base surface, and

wherein the trigger is configured to pivot above the top base surface between an engaged position, where the catch is engaged with the snap bar in the second loaded position, and a disengaged position where the catch is disengaged from the snap bar..

2. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the vertical trigger portion has an angle between 70 to 110 degrees with respect to the horizontal trigger portion.

3. (Original) The device of Claim 2, wherein the horizontal trigger portion is substantially perpendicular to the vertical trigger portion.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1, wherein the horizontal trigger portion is suspended above the base when the trigger is in the engaged position.

7. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 1, further comprising an anchor pivotably coupling the trigger to the base.

8. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein the horizontal trigger portion comprises a platform.

Application No. 10/824,802
Art Unit 3644
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2006
Attorney Docket No. IPM1.PAU.06

Patent Application

9. (Original) The device of Claim 8, further comprising an adhesive material disposed on the platform.

10. (Original) The device of Claim 9, further comprising a rodent attractant disposed on top of the platform.

11. (Original) The device of Claim 9, further comprising a removable cover disposed over the adhesive material on the platform.

12. (Original) The device of Claim 7, wherein the horizontal trigger portion comprises a stem extending between the platform and the vertical trigger portion, the stem including a bend such that the platform is disposed further upwardly away from the base.

13. (Original) The device of Claim 1, wherein:
the vertical trigger portion comprises a first side facing the first end of the base
and a second side facing the second end of the base; and
the catch is disposed on the second side of the vertical trigger portion.

Application No. 10/824,802
Art Unit 3644
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2006
Attorney Docket No. IPM1.PAU.06

Patent Application

14. (Currently amended) A rodent terminating device, comprising:

a base having a first base end, a second base end, a first side, a second side, a length and a top base surface;

a snap bar rotatable between a first rest position adjacent to the first base end and a second loaded position adjacent to the second base end, the snap bar being rotatably coupled to the base and ~~spring-biased toward the first rest position~~ by at least one spring, the snap bar defining a pivot line at least one spring defining a longitudinal axis, the at least one spring being positioned adjacent to the first side or the second side of the base so as to leave a central gap;

a trigger pivotably coupled to the base, the trigger comprising a substantially straight horizontal trigger portion having a horizontal platform and an integral vertical trigger portion substantially perpendicular to, and depending upwardly from, the horizontal trigger portion, the vertical trigger portion comprising a catch disposed adjacent to the second end of the base and configured to directly and releasably engage the snap bar in the second loaded position, the trigger comprising a pivot point above the top base surface,

wherein the horizontal platform is suspended above the base when the catch is engaged with the snap bar in the second loaded position and

wherein the straight horizontal trigger portion extends substantially along the length of the base through the central gap and beneath the pivot line longitudinal axis of the snap bar spring.

Application No. 10/824,802
Art Unit 3644
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2006
Attorney Docket No. IPM1.PAU.06

Patent Application

15. (Original) The device of Claim 14, wherein:

the horizontal platform is included in a horizontal trigger portion;

the catch is included in a vertical trigger portion; and

the vertical trigger portion is substantially perpendicular to the horizontal trigger.

16. (Previously presented) The device of Claim 15, wherein the trigger comprises a bend between the vertical trigger portion and the horizontal trigger portion, the trigger defining a hole adjacent to the bend, the device further comprising an anchor extending through the bend and pivotably coupling the trigger to the base at the bend.

17. (Original) The device of Claim 14, further comprising an adhesive material disposed on top of the horizontal platform.

18. (Original) The device of Claim 17, further comprising a rodent attractant disposed on top of the horizontal platform.

19. (Original) The device of Claim 17, further comprising a removable cover disposed over the horizontal platform.

Application No. 10/824,802
Art Unit 3644
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2006
Attorney Docket No. IPM1.PAU.06

Patent Application

20. (Currently amended) A rodent terminating device, comprising:

a base having a first end, a second end, a first side, a second side, a length and a top base surface;

a snap bar rotatably coupled to the base, the snap bar being rotatable between a ~~spring-biased, rest position~~ and a loaded position, the snap bar defining a snap zone when disposed in the rest position and defining a pivot line, the snap bar being biased to the rest position by at least one spring defining a longitudinal axis, the at least one spring being disposed adjacent to the first side or the second side of the base so as to leave a central gap; and

a one-piece trigger having a substantially straight horizontal trigger portion and an integral vertical trigger portion extending upwardly from the horizontal trigger portion, the horizontal trigger portion including a horizontal platform disposed in the snap zone, the substantially straight horizontal portion extending substantially along the length of the base through the central gap and beneath the longitudinal axis of the spring, the vertical trigger portion including a catch disposed outside of the snap zone and adjacent to the second end of the base so as to directly and releasably engage the snap bar in the loaded position.

wherein the trigger comprises a pivot point above the top base surface, and wherein movement of the substantially straight horizontal trigger portion at the first end of the base directly and immediately causes movement of the catch releasably engaged with the snap bar in the loaded position.

Application No. 10/824,802
Art Unit 3644
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2006
Attorney Docket No. IPM1.PAU.06

Patent Application

21. (Original) The device of Claim 20, wherein the catch is included in a vertical portion of the trigger and the horizontal platform is included in a horizontal portion of the trigger.

22. (Original) The device of Claim 20, wherein the trigger is pivotable between an engaged position where the catch engages the snap bar in the loaded position, and a disengaged position where the catch is disengaged from the snap bar.

23. (Currently amended) A rodent terminating device, comprising:

a base having a first end, a second end, a first side, a second side, a length and a top surface;

a snap bar rotatably coupled to the base along a pivot dividing line which divides the top surface of the base into a first operative half and a second non-operative half, the snap bar being spring-biased to rotate toward the first operative half by at least one spring defining a longitudinal axis, the at least one spring being disposed adjacent to the first side or the second side of the base to as to leave a central gap;

a one-piece trigger pivotably coupled to the base at a single point of contact above the top surface of the base, the one-piece trigger comprising a substantially straight horizontal trigger portion and an integral vertical trigger portion that extends upwardly from the horizontal trigger portion, the horizontal trigger portion comprising an integral platform at a distal end opposite to the vertical trigger portion, the substantially straight horizontal trigger portion extending substantially along the length of the base through the central gap and beneath the pivot dividing line longitudinal axis of the snap

Application No. 10/824,802
Art Unit 3644
Reply to Office Action of May 3, 2006
Attorney Docket No. IPM1.PAU.06

Patent Application

bar at least one spring, the vertical trigger portion comprising a catch disposed adjacent to the second end of the base and configured to directly engage the snap bar at a position above the base.

24. (Original) The device of Claim 23, wherein the single point of contact is located in the non-operative half of the base.

25. (Original) The device of Claim 23, further comprising an anchor that pivotably couples the trigger to the base.

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